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DEVELOPMENT. (1948) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. ~~3702~~ 5762.

Dated 22.11.48.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Subj:- M.L.A. Starred Question No. 231 - By Begum Mir Ammunnisa M.L.A. - Iron and Steel - Allotment - Distribution and utilisation of the Provincial Quota- information regarding - paper recorded.

ALLOTMENT OF IRON AND STEEL TO THIS PROVINCE IN 1946-48.

*200 Q.- BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state -

(a) the amount of iron and steel allotted to this Province during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48;

(b) the amount actually received;

(c) the arrangements made for the equitable distribution of the quota received;

(d) what are the trades that receive priority in regard to the distribution of iron and steel;

(e) what steps the Government are taking to see that the quota allotted is actually utilized by the allottees; and

(f) whether the Government are taking to see that the quota allotted is actually utilis have received any complaint that large amounts of iron and steel have been going into the black-market?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI: "(a) The quantity of steel allotted to this Province was 24,750 tons for 1947 and 12,035 tons for the period from 1st January to 30th September 1948.

"(b) The actual receipt was 11,351 tons during the year 1947 and 6,672 tons up to 30th June 1948. during 1948.

"(c) The Government have ordered that out of the supplies of steel to this Province for every quarter 50 per cent should be set apart for agricultural purposes and the other 50 per cent for non-agricultural purposes. Steel for agricultural purposes is distributed through the Agricultural Depots on the recommendations of the officers of the Agricultural Department and the Village Officers. Cart tyres, axles and corrugated sheets for agricultural purposes are distributed according to the steel priority of applications received in the Agricultural Depots.

Steel for non-agricultural purposes is distributed on the recommendations of the Tahsildars or the local officers of the Industries department. The individual distribution is restricted to one ton per quarter in the case of small fabricators of consumer goods, two tons per quarter in the case of private buildings and five tons in the case of public utility buildings and small-scale industrial establishments.

"(d) Steel for the general public is distributed according to the following priority:-

1. Public utility buildings.
2. Small-scale industrial establishments.
3. Private buildings.

Maintenance requirements are given a higher priority over the requirements for new constructions.

"(e) Permits for steel are issued only to those applicants whose demands are known or certified to be genuine by the local officers of the Revenue or Industries department. In a few instances, checks have been made by the Provincial Steel Controller to see that the quota allotted is actually utilized by the allottees.

"(f) A few cases of blackmarketing of iron and steel were brought to the notice of the Government and prompt action has been taken."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: "For the reply given to clauses (a) and (b), we learn that the quantity actually received has been much less than that allotted. May I know why it has been so?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI: "Because they have not been received."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: "May I know the reasons for this? Why have not the Government taken steps to see that they were given the entire quantity allotted?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI: "When the original allocations were made by the Government of India, they did it on the basis of the possible production, the comparative needs under each category and if sometimes the production is less or some other need more important arises, the allocation to the provinces is reduced and sometimes there is the bottleneck of transport and these are all factors that arise; but so far as the Government of India to secure as much steel as possible for the needs of this Province."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: "May I know whether those who do not utilize the quota allotted to them return the same to the Government?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI: "So far as I know it rarely happens that a man who is allotted does not take it."

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Development Department

To Assistant Secretary:

Please see the printed proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, on pp. 13-14 c.f. No further action is called for. The papers may be recorded.

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G.O. Ms. 5762, dt.22.11.48.

Madras Legislative Assembly - Starred Question No. 231 by Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin, M.L.A. - Iron and Steeel - Allotment - distribution and utilization of the Provincial quota - Information regarding - Papers recorded.

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Secretary to Government

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